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For the Record

From remarks to the Senate by Sen. John H. Chaffee (R-R.I.):

Almost five years ago, Richard A. Welch, CIA station chief in Athens, Greece, was brutally murdered in front of his home as he returned from a Christmas party at the American ambassador's residence. Welch's assassination occurred within a month of the time that he was publicly identified as CIA station chief in The Athens Daily News. The information for The News story came from Philip Agee's Counterspy magazine.

"Congress has done nothing legislatively to address the problem of 'naming names.'" At the time of the Welch assassination, Counterspy magazine claimed they had leaked the names of 225 alleged CIA agents. Now, five years later, Louis Wolf of the Covert Action Information Bulletin can boast that he has helped to disclose the names of more than 2,000 American intelligence officers stationed around the world.

This same Louis Wolf was responsible for revealing the names of 15 alleged CIA officers in Kingston, Jamaica, this month. Within 48 hours of the announcement, the home of one of the men named, Richard Kinsman of the U.S. Embassy, was fired upon with submachine guns and an explosive device.

Clearly... this "naming names" must be stopped. Congress must act immediately to place a cost on the activity of those who use this as a means to impair and impede duly authorized American intelligence operations around the world.

In my judgment, the time is ripe for markup of an intelligence identities bill. Both the House and the Senate have introduced legislation on this issue... I think recent events in Jamaica make it particularly timely for us to address this urgent issue now.